

648.41111X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): EZUMI, et al.

Serial No.: 10/054,852

Filed: January 25, 2002

For: FRICTION STIR WELDING METHOD, AND HOLLOW
SHAPE MEMBER FOR FRICTION STIR WELDING

Group: 1725

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find copies of documents discussed in the specification of the above-identified application, that is, on pages 1-3 of Applicants' specification. The documents being submitted are the Japanese-language documents referred to on pages 2 and 3 of Applicants specification, as well as corresponding English language documents (EP797043A2, corresponding to Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 9-309164; and U.S. Patent No. 6,050,474, corresponding to Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 11-90655). Also enclosed are English abstracts of the respective Japanese patent laid-open publications.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application. Very truly,

requirements of 37 CFR 1.97(b) are satisfied.

While the presently submitted Japanese patent laid-open publications are not in English, requirements of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) are clearly satisfied by the also-enclosed corresponding English language documents, referred to previously, English abstracts of the respective Japanese patent laid-open publications, and discussion of the Japanese patent laid-open publications in the specification of the above-identified application as referred to previously.

Also enclosed is a Form, substantially equivalent to Form PTO-1449, listing each of the enclosed documents.

In view of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all applicable requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with all documents listed on the enclosed Form. Accordingly, consideration of the listed documents, upon examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with

the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 648.41111X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William I. Solomon', is written over the printed name.

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WIS/slk
Enclosures

List and Copies of Prior Art

Prior Publications

- (1) Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. H09-309164
(EP0797043A2)
- (1) Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. H11-090655
(USP6050474)